

January 26, 1976

I've been bringing segregation to their attention, Senator Mahoney, ever since I've been down here and I supported your bill before I came down. You all play with peoples lives, I mean their lives literally. It's not a plaything.

I'll tell you what the problem in this Legislature is, the racism is still in this country and is still shown in this Legislature. That's why it's not important to you. Let it happen to you and yours, then you'll be concerned. You're not concerned about what Swanson did over in the Ramada Inn because he was calling Black people derogatory names. That's why you didn't care about that. When Noise improperly discharged his weapon it was in a black community so you don't care about that. That's why Senator Stull can say "Well there are some problems in Omaha". That's why Senator Mahoney can say "Well it's been made a point of", but the point has not been made because they're in a position to do the same thing now. You all are legitimatizing what they're doing. You're putting the sanction and approval of the state Legislature on it.

I'll tell you what I believe now, I'm saying it for the record and the public. You organize your special deputies and you organize your posses. We are not going to be an unarmed, abused people who have recourse nowhere. Now if you're not going to control them and make them responsible and be certain that they perform as a law enforcement officer, which you haven't done up to now and haven't cared about doing, it's up to every community to take care of itself.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: You have two minutes, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That is what I will advocate. Nothing happened to Noise when he did what he did. Nothing happened to Swanson. Swanson is a millionaire. That's why he'll stay a special deputy and that's why none of you will take any action on this matter. We're all telling each other and we're telling the public things about what we are and what we believe in. We're drawing battle lines now.

Like I've told a lot of you before, I try to be as nice as people will be to me, but I'm going to give you back what you give to me too.

The sheriff cannot control these people for whatever reasons, it's up to the Legislature to do that. This bill, 432, does not abolish special deputies. It puts some controls on them. The only thing that could stop you from doing that is, in the case of the Omaha Senators, the pressure and a general attitude of racism. These people know what their job is, it's to deal with me. I know how to deal back. When I've exhausted every legitimate means to try to bring about changes in this society and you all will not let those changes occur, then I'm going to quote what a white President said, John F. Kennedy, "Those who make peaceful evolution impossible make violent revolution inevitable". I'm talking about properly controlling people who call themselves law enforcement officials, not abolishing law and order. That's not what I'm talking about. If you analyze carefully what some of you said that's exactly what you're doing. You're